

October 29, 2019

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

APPLICATION OF SOUTH SHORE ENERGY,)	
LLC, AND DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE)	Docket No.
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC)	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE)	9698-CE-100
NEMADJI TRAIL ENERGY CENTER)	
COMBINED-CYCLE PROJECT, TO BE LOCATED))	
IN THE CITY OF SUPERIOR, DOUGLAS)	
COUNTY, WISCONSIN)	

EXAMINER MICHAEL NEWMARK, PRESIDING

Tr. 523-585

PUBLIC HEARING SESSION

CERTIFIED
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT

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HEARING HELD:

October 29, 2019

Public Service Commission
Madison, Wisconsin

2:00 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 2:00 P.M.

EXAMINER NEWMARK: At this point I'll call our first witness. Looks like Janine Rueter.

JANINE RUETER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

BY MS. RUETER: My name is Janine Rueter. I live about 80 miles south of Superior near Spooner, Wisconsin. The last few years I've been exploring a community's rights to local self-government, commonly called community rights. As the name implies of the Public Service Commission, the Public Service Commission's job and duty is to place the public's best interests above that of the corporations. If this process worked well, communities would not continually be having projects like the Nemadji Trail Energy Center placed in their communities.

Building a fossil fuel burning power plant is not what we the people need. Both the extraction of natural gas by fracking and burning the natural gas produce more climate-changing methane and carbon dioxide. Burning natural gas is not clean energy just because there is less emissions than coal. It's unethical to extract nutrients by fracking with regard to water supplies, air quality and the

1 earthquakes that are caused by fracking. Using
2 fracked natural resources is thus also unethical.
3 We can do better than this for each other as people.

4 Dairyland Power Cooperative's website says
5 that as of 2017 they produced 19 percent of their
6 power from wind and solar generation. They project
7 that by 2027 they will increase that a mere two
8 percent to 21 percent. This should be well over 50
9 percent by 2027. Generating electricity from wind
10 and solar and putting emphasis on conservation and
11 storage options will serve the people for the
12 long-term. The costs of wind and solar continue to
13 decrease making it a better investment for the power
14 companies and for the ratepayers.

15 The \$700 million that this project is
16 expected to cost would go a long way toward truly
17 sustainable power generation for Dairyland
18 Cooperative in the form of wind and solar
19 electricity generation. This power plant --
20 building a natural gas power plant at this time is
21 like building obsolete technology. We should be
22 looking to the future. And renewable energy creates
23 jobs. This project needs to be rejected by the
24 Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Thank you.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. So we do have a
3 lot of comments. I'm going to read a couple names
4 at once so people know when they're next. We have
5 Bruce Thompson next, then Jan Bliss and Norm Herron.
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1 BRUCE THOMPSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. THOMPSON: My name is Bruce
4 Thompson. And I am a fourth generation Superiorite,
5 a grandfather to a sixth generation Superiorite who
6 hopefully will live and work in this community. And
7 I'm very supportive of the renewable energy chase
8 and the quest to be very efficient and provide
9 reliable energy along with some redundance capacity
10 and some local generation capacity to support us
11 during the threats to the power grid.

12 I'm extremely proud of the partnership
13 that these two companies have come together which
14 ultimately will lead to a public private partnership
15 as we are all very vested in this. I grew up about
16 two miles and lived for 50 years close to -- two
17 miles from this really energy sector that we're
18 proud of in Superior. We have several energy
19 companies in concert with some of the most delicate
20 environmental resource areas around. Working in
21 concert is something to be very proud of. And I
22 appreciate and support and also so much depend on
23 the neighbors and friends that I have that work for
24 these companies, that continue to evolve and push
25 for the latest technology to make sure that we can

527

1 sustain ourselves in a modern, efficient and
2 economical manner. Thank you.

3 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thank you,
4 sir.

5 (Witness excused.)

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. So we have
7 Jan Bliss next. Before she gets here, I just have a
8 comment. Off the record.

9 (Discussion off the record.)

1 JAN BLISS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MS. BLISS: My name is Jan Bliss. I
4 live near Spooner, Wisconsin. I am a member of an
5 organization titled Washburn County Community Rights
6 Alliance. We are a part of a growing national
7 movement of citizens who recognize that we, the
8 people, have lost our rights to govern ourselves in
9 our towns, counties and states. We have lost that
10 right to corporations who with their influence of
11 money and power have pushed for legislation all over
12 this country that favors them to the detriment of
13 human beings and natural communities.

14 Many small towns in this country have had
15 no say when it comes to corporations setting up shop
16 in their community. And if the goal of a
17 corporation is using natural resources to make a
18 profit, it usually means there is a trail of toxins
19 and damaged ecosystems left behind. Community
20 rights groups across the country are now saying
21 aloud that hearings like this one to get public
22 opinion on a fracked gas plant are a sham. They are
23 the legal hoops that government regulators have to
24 hold, regulators who have often worked for the
25 corporations, to allow citizens to voice their

1 wishes for their community. But the decisions are
2 often already made by the regulators with corporate
3 funding and pressure on to make the right decision.

4 Regulators do not regulate corporations.
5 They regulate citizens, the taxpayers, the human
6 beings. They tell us how much toxins in the air or
7 water or soil we can take before we get sick or we
8 begin to notice our natural communities declining.
9 We should not have to take any amount of poison in
10 our air or water or soil or in us.

11 Community rights is about we, the people,
12 taking back our unalienable rights to govern
13 ourselves again. We have the power. It is what
14 this country is all about. We have the right to
15 create ordinances and laws that will work for us,
16 not the corporations. That right is in the
17 Declaration of Independence, in the Bill of Rights
18 and in every state constitution, along with the
19 power to change our government if it is not working
20 to protect its citizens anymore.

21 Get together, folks, meet with your
22 neighbors. Talk about how you want your community
23 to look for your kids or grandkids when they are
24 adults. It starts at the beginning at the local
25 level. Read about community rights online. Just

1 look up community rights in your search engine.
2 There is a great deal of information from folks who
3 are already creating ordinances in their towns.

4 So no, we are not in favor of bringing
5 fracked gas to make energy. We need to invest in
6 renewable energy and leave the fossil fuels in the
7 ground. Renewable energy is viable and getting less
8 expensive all the time. And the location of this
9 plant on Lake Superior? I wonder why that is. Need
10 the water maybe?

11 Such a magnificent gem, but it is finite,
12 and corporate activities on its shores will do
13 damage. No more damage to Lake Superior and its
14 surroundings. Thank you.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, ma'am.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. We have Norm
18 Herron, Linda Herron and Korii Northrup.
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1 NORM HERRON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. HERRON: First of all, thank you
4 for the opportunity to express my position on the
5 NTEC project. My name is Norm Herron. I live in
6 Duluth, Minnesota. As a resident of Duluth and a
7 customer of Minnesota Power, I'm here to register my
8 opposition to the proposed construction of the
9 Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Superior, Wisconsin.

10 My opposition is based on the following.
11 Natural gas will power this plant and fracking is
12 the most common method for extracting natural gas
13 from the earth. The fracking method uses toxic
14 chemicals which contaminate ground and surface
15 waters and alter habitat for wildlife.
16 Additionally, methane gas is released during
17 extraction and transport of natural gas, which
18 pollutes the air and contributes to global warming.

19 Renewable energy is replacing fossil fuels
20 in power plants as a transition from coal. The
21 Rocky Mountain Institute has reported that utilities
22 are moving away from natural gas and are utilizing
23 cheaper renewables such as solar, wind and taking
24 advantage of new energy storage possibilities. They
25 say in the midwest, Consumer Energy and Northern

532

1 Indiana Public Service Company are planning to
2 retire most or all of their remaining coal assets
3 and replacing them with new wind, solar, storage and
4 demand-side resources, avoiding any investment in
5 new gas-fired generation and saving their customers
6 billions of dollars. And in Colorado, Xcel Energy
7 will retire two coal plants ahead of schedule,
8 replacing them with wind, solar storage and
9 demand-side resources, again, avoiding any
10 investment in new gas.

11 Demand-side resources are energy
12 efficiency and load management programs to encourage
13 consumers to use less energy during peak hours or to
14 move the time of energy use to nighttime and
15 weekends. Should this gas plant be approved, the
16 State of Minnesota faces a failed attempt to reach
17 100 percent renewable energy by 2050 which is,
18 according to Governor Walz, Minnesota's energy goal.

19 As a consumer, I prefer my electric power
20 to be generated from clean, renewable energy such as
21 wind and solar. Thank you.

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir.

23 (Witness excused.)

24 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Linda Herron.

25 Korii Northrup and then Richard Van Rossem.

1 LINDA HERRON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MS. HERRON: Thank you also for
4 allowing us to comment publicly on this extremely
5 important issue. As the major Wisconsin
6 decision-maker in the case of Minnesota Power's and
7 Dairyland Power's request for approval of the
8 Nemadji Trail Energy Center, you, the Commissioners
9 of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, will be
10 weighing all the scientific evidence and public
11 testimony. Have Minnesota Power and Dairyland Power
12 researched the impact of this plant on the land,
13 water and people of the area? How much water will
14 be required to operate this plant? What impact will
15 water use have on the City of Superior's groundwater
16 supplies? Will water need to be drawn from Lake
17 Superior? If so, what would be the impacts?

18 What is the impact on climate change of
19 the methane released at every pressure pumping
20 station of natural gas along its 1,000 or so mile
21 transport from fracked gas wells to households?
22 What are the health impacts on the community where
23 this plant would be built?

24 These are some of the environmental and
25 health impact questions that you will be assessing.

1 Do you have the data, the research results necessary
2 to make a decision in this case? What are the
3 financial costs to the ratepayers of these two power
4 companies?

5 The Rocky Mountain Institute reports that
6 the role of gas as a bridge fuel is behind us, that
7 we have reached the end of the natural gas bridge,
8 and there is now a clear opportunity to prioritize
9 clean energy investment in the U.S. They have
10 analyzed the economics of every gas-fired power
11 plant in the U.S. and found that over 90 percent,
12 and I quote this from them, over 90 percent would be
13 more expensive than an equivalent clean energy
14 portfolio; that ratepayers would be saddled with the
15 high cost of a stranded asset, that is, an unused
16 gas plant in a future carbon-free energy world.

17 Have Minnesota Power and Dairyland Power
18 seriously examined low cost energy efficiency,
19 renewable energy, and energy storage as viable
20 alternatives to fossil fuels? As you weigh the
21 evidence and testimony in this case, please consider
22 the warning of the United Nations Inter-Governmental
23 Panel on climate change. To avoid the worst-case
24 scenario of climate change impact, we move -- we
25 must move swiftly to reduce our carbon footprint.

1 For this reason and many of the above issues, I ask
2 that you say no to the proposed Nemadji Trail Energy
3 Center.

4 And as an addendum to this report, I would
5 also like to say that I am shocked and opposed to
6 what I understand the Wisconsin Public Service
7 Commission has just decided not to accept some 700
8 comments that were sent to the Public Service
9 Commission by the Sierra Club in Wisconsin.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Korii Northrup,
13 Richard Van Rossem. Is Korii Northrup here? And
14 Charles Glazman is the next person to come.
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1 KORII NORTHRUP, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 MS. NORTHRUP: (Statement made in foreign
3 language.)

4 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Off the record.

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

6 BY MS. NORTHRUP: Many of you might not
7 understand what I said.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Do you want to
9 translate it for the record?

10 MS. NORTHRUP: Yes.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Go ahead.

12 MS. NORTHRUP: I am Anishinaabe. And I
13 spoke in my native language, Anishinaabe, and I
14 introduced myself. I said hello, relatives. I only
15 know a little bit of Ojibwe, but I'll try. And I
16 said my name, and I said I come from the Bear Clan,
17 and I said that my home community is Sawyer,
18 Minnesota.

19 So the reason that I came here to speak
20 today was for my ancestors who I revere very
21 greatly. And for the danger in this proposed
22 fracking plant. So we went over to where the site
23 of this proposed plant would be, and lo and behold
24 that's where my ancestors are. And looked at graves
25 from -- they were dug up at the end of Wisconsin

1 Point and moved where we were promised that they
2 would be cared for in a loving manner, and they have
3 not been. And I am angered and outraged about how
4 this is not included in the Environmental Impact
5 Statement where they're already digging up our
6 people on Highway 23 in order to make a larger
7 highway. This will also impact my ancestors yet
8 again and they have not been able to rest in peace
9 as your ancestors on this new land have been able
10 to.

11 Another thing that bothers me about this
12 Environmental Impact Statement is the access of Fond
13 du Lac and being considered when spoken to. Another
14 problem that I find with it is that the problems
15 that Red Cliff had with it were not explored and
16 deepened. When we speak of concern, it's not
17 something that you just note, it's something you
18 should look into, something you should figure out
19 about. I really thought that was the point of the
20 public comment was so that we could deepen our
21 understanding of this land that we live off and that
22 we share.

23 I don't think it's a great idea to put a
24 ticking time bomb next to another ticking time bomb
25 that would put a 15-mile hole in a place that I

1 love, that I have a birthright to live on and to
2 exist on, and that I want to share with everyone. I
3 want to share the beauty of clean water and the
4 beauty of a way of life that is fossil fuel free.
5 Thank you.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Richard Van Rossem.
9 Charles Glazman and then Blane Tom. Okay.

1 RICHARD VAN ROSSEM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. VAN ROSSEM: I speak better
4 standing up. But, first of all, I sit here as a
5 person who formerly served on your city council from
6 '97 to 2000, as well as being on your school board
7 from '97 to 2009. The reason I bring that up is
8 there's a historical reference to this project
9 during my tenure. I can remember back when I was on
10 the city council, it was at that time there was land
11 acquisition going on for the transmission line and
12 so forth. And why am I bringing that up? It's of
13 historical value.

14 These projects do not happen overnight. I
15 would ask you three questions. Here we are today.
16 You're here today. Where were you 20 years ago?
17 But where were you 25 years ago? 25 years ago we
18 probably went -- the initial analysis was done by
19 electrical engineers and corporate people in regards
20 to the future of the grid system of the United
21 States, not only in terms of its current status back
22 then, but where was it going to go to today? And
23 then how are we going to bring it about?

24 So when you look at this project, you're
25 looking at 25 years of planning. And I speak in

540

1 support of this project, and I ask the Public
2 Service Commission to wholeheartedly support this
3 because this is not a small project that was just
4 done of corporate greed. This is a public service.
5 Years and years of planning and acquisition and
6 implementation are required for projects such as
7 this.

8 I served -- rather, I sailed on the Great
9 Lakes back in the '60s; and I sailed, I was in the
10 engine room. So I know a rudimentary understanding
11 of steam engines, turbines, et cetera, et cetera,
12 and the cooling systems. By and large closed loop
13 systems, they bring in water, purify it, condense
14 it, and then they'll reutilize it over and over
15 again for cooling. Similar to what's done at the
16 refinery.

17 So the concern that I believe that people
18 are expressing here regarding pollution and so forth
19 and that are probably misunderstood or overstated.
20 So I wholeheartedly support this project and I ask
21 the community to get behind it.

22 The final thing that I have to say on that
23 is this. Back when I was on the city council and
24 when I was running for it, it was: What's your
25 position on jobs? How are we going to get our

1 economy going? How are we going to sustain it? We
2 had lost many jobs during the coal docks closing,
3 grain elevators, this, that and the other. And now
4 we have a major project coming in that basically has
5 had 25 years of development and planning. And we're
6 about to reject it?

7 I wholeheartedly urge you, even if you
8 stand on the other side, to realize this isn't
9 corporate greed. It requires large corporations to
10 do decades of planning in order to bring a project
11 of this magnitude to this point.

12 The other thing is that technology
13 implementation and analysis are ever leapfrogging.
14 Anything that's going to be put in today can be
15 claimed to be obsolete because of the advances. But
16 what are you going to do in the meantime? I heard
17 the comment of, well, Indiana, they're planning,
18 they're planning. Well, this was planned probably
19 25 years ago. So what are we going to do in the
20 meantime?

21 This happens to be a nest area for power
22 resources, Enbridge bringing in their pipelines to
23 help provide the oil and the natural gas. We have a
24 refinery here. We have the cooling waters. We're
25 in a key position for redistributing through the

1 transmission lines. If you've gone down state.
2 I've been watching them go up, back down to Chicago,
3 and to serve our immediate area.

4 So I ask you to really take a firm look at
5 this in terms of how you feel on this project. And
6 I ask you to get behind it. And I thank you for
7 your time.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir.

9 (Witness excused.)

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Charles Glazman. And
11 Blane Tom and Mark Liebaert.

1 CHARLES GLAZMAN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. GLAZMAN: First, thank you for this
4 opportunity to give testimony. My name is Charlie
5 Glazman. I represent the Seventh District of the
6 Douglas County Board of Supervisors, and I'm
7 currently the board chair of the Development
8 Association which is the area's leading economic
9 development agency.

10 Our board supports the Nemadji Trail
11 Center for the following reasons. We see it as an
12 economic development driver. Without proper
13 consistent energy availability, business and
14 industry will not locate in Douglas County.
15 Manufacturers want reliable energy to be able to
16 produce the products and services to their
17 customers. It supplements Minnesota Power's
18 renewable energy plans by providing flexibility and
19 reliability by running natural gas when power
20 options are not available under solar or wind power.

21 This project will provide a million
22 dollars to the City of Superior and Douglas County
23 annually for having the facility at the proposed
24 location. It also helps Minnesota Power meet the
25 renewable energy standard of 25 percent renewable by

1 2025, a decade earlier. And, finally, this project
2 will create 260 jobs during the construction phase
3 and up to 25 permanent full-time jobs.

4 Now, this is the mission of the
5 development association, to champion business,
6 growth, creation, recruitment and retention in the
7 City of Superior and Douglas County. Our board of
8 director urges the support of the Public Service
9 Commission of Wisconsin for this project. Thank
10 you.

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

12 (Witness excused.)

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Blane Tom. Then Mark
14 Liebaert and Gregory St. Onge.

1 BLANE TOM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. TOM: My name is Blane Tom. I'm
4 the business manager of the boilermakers. I cover
5 the whole State of Wisconsin. I grew up in Park
6 Falls, just down the road from here, relocated to
7 Superior in 1990, lived out in Billings Park area
8 for 12 years before I relocated down to the West
9 Bend area based off of my occupation. I did marry a
10 woman from Superior here, was born and raised, still
11 has family up here, so we do have ties that exist
12 today.

13 I want to thank you for the moment on the
14 floor to comment on NTEC. For well over a decade,
15 as you know, coal-fired plants have been in the
16 process of closure due to pollutants. Our country
17 and state have plans to eliminate coal power;
18 however, they lack a quality plant to make that
19 work. The process has started with infrastructure
20 upgrades in gas lines and transmission lines, along
21 with Wisconsin and neighboring states have erected
22 numerous wind and solar farms to add to the
23 renewable portfolios of the state and utilities.
24 However, these upgrades alone will not cover the
25 shortages of power plants from coal nor allow for

546

1 reliable power 24/7. While wind, solar and water is
2 good during daylight hours, it lacks reliability
3 during evening hours. Currently there are no good
4 power storage systems in place for renewable power
5 sources. Therefore, gas needs to have a place in
6 this change.

7 Gas allows for flexibility and allowing
8 for ramp-ups and slowdowns when there are unexpected
9 turns in other renewable resources. Gas actually
10 reduces emission of coal by -- the coal emissions by
11 a good 70 to 80 percent and also eliminates
12 byproducts from coal such as fly ash.

13 So if we truly look to better the
14 environment and maintain a reliable and flexibility,
15 gas needs to be part of the equation. For these
16 reasons, I ask that there be a favorable decision on
17 licensing and building of these units. Thank you.

18 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

19 (Witness excused.)

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Mark Liebaert.
21 Gregory, and David Conley.

1 MARK LIEBAERT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. LIEBAERT: I'm Mark Liebaert. I'm
4 the Douglas County board chairman. And as the
5 chairman, I was probably one of the first elected
6 officials and public officials, along with the mayor
7 of the City of Superior and some of his
8 administrative staff, to be aware of his project.
9 About three, four years ago, I guess they approached
10 us with their ideas that they were coming here and
11 wanting to get on board with some of our problems
12 that we might see in siting this thing.

13 The Public Service Commission has two
14 things, I think, that they have to decide here. One
15 is, is this a needed plant? The other one, is this
16 the site for this type of plant? Superior, Douglas
17 County, is an industrial town. We have Husky
18 Energy, we have Dome Petroleum, we have Enbridge, we
19 have Midwest Energy, we have trucking firms. This
20 is an industrial town. This is the ideal site for
21 this type of plant. It is located within eight
22 miles of a transmission line that can move this
23 electricity. So we're not going to have to build a
24 new transmission line halfway to Wausau to use it.

25 The other is, is that we have natural

1 gas -- two natural gas lines that are accessing that
2 site with relatively little infrastructure needed.
3 It's also close to other industrial sites out there,
4 so some of the things that we've put in place for
5 those types of projects are also within that realm
6 of districts.

7 The Douglas County board passed a
8 resolution supporting this probably when the project
9 first became public. We are still in support of it
10 today. The other thing that I would like you to
11 know is that Douglas County recently passed a
12 resolution supporting encouraging Douglas County to
13 participate and encourage renewable energy projects.
14 We believe, I believe that this energy plant allows
15 those projects to move forward. The technology
16 needed to allow solar and wind to operate needs a
17 plant like this. And the hopes are that as we move
18 forward with a plant like this, we will eliminate
19 some of the coal-fired generation plants that are
20 outdated and are heavily polluting mercury and the
21 rest of it in our environment.

22 Minnesota Power and Dairyland have made
23 sure that they've listened to our concerns and the
24 public's concerns. Some of the concerns that we had
25 in the beginning were, well, what was the noise

1 level going to be, how far was it going to be from
2 houses, what was the impact on residents, how much
3 water was going to be used, where that water was
4 going to come from, was that water basically
5 renewable, was there going to be a problem with that
6 water. I believe that Minnesota Power and Dairyland
7 Power have taken as much of those concerns that they
8 can bring and have presented that now in their
9 application for this.

10 So I believe that Minnesota Power and
11 Dairyland have both been open and transparent during
12 this process. And this is the ideal site for this
13 plant to be built. And there's -- I could go
14 into -- some of the other county board guys have
15 probably talked about the economic impacts and the
16 rest of it, a million dollars split between the city
17 and the county is greatly enhancing our ability to
18 provide services for our residents. The other one
19 is I believe that for the environment, a gas --
20 natural gas generating plant will be much better
21 than a coal-fired generating plant. And that the
22 quick uptake that this plant is capable will not
23 only encourage, but will make renewable energy more
24 available. Thank you.

25 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you, sir.

1 (Witness excused.)

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Gregory
3 St. Onge. And then David Conley. And Diana
4 Brainard.

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1 GREGORY ST. ONGE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. ST. ONGE: Thank you for allowing
4 me to speak. My name is Greg St. Onge. I grew up
5 in east end, only a few blocks away really from
6 where this plant is planned. I grew up in east end
7 while Murphy Oil turned Newton Creek into a sewer.
8 I don't want to see anything like that ever happen
9 again.

10 I'm here because in 1980, I put two solar
11 panels on my roof in Maple; and ever since 1980,
12 that's taken care of my hot water needs for my home.
13 That's 39 years. And I feel that with the
14 engineering staff that these companies have, they
15 can look around and find a way to build more solar
16 solutions. Maybe they don't need as big a plant,
17 maybe they don't have to invest 700 million that my
18 grandchildren are going to pay for.

19 In 2012, I put up two more solar energy
20 panels; and that took care of the power for my
21 residence. I haven't paid an electric bill since
22 2012. And, again, I ask the people from the power
23 companies why they can't look at this and invest
24 smarter. You already heard other people say that
25 solar and wind are now cheaper than natural gas. So

552

1 why invest in something that's going to be obsolete?

2 In 2017, I bought two more panels, and
3 that powered my Chevy Volt for 6,000 miles. And
4 this year I'm going to buy two more panels, and that
5 should get me another 6,000 miles.

6 So if I can do it without being an
7 engineer, I think that these companies with their
8 capabilities can do much better. I'm not saying we
9 don't need natural gas ever. I don't have the
10 statistics; but I think, again, these companies that
11 have these wind and solar plants already in place,
12 they have the data, they can tell us what the
13 average output is for the wind plants that are now
14 in position; and they can add additional plants, do
15 the same thing that Xcel Energy is planning and
16 bring sufficient and needed electrical power again
17 for the future so that my grandkids don't have to
18 pay for the pollution that they're going to put into
19 the air. Thank you.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you, sir.

21 (Witness excused.)

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: David Conley. Diana
23 Brainard and Jim Caesar.

1 DAVID CONLEY, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. CONLEY: I thank you for this
4 opportunity to hear from the public. Well, there
5 are many reasons why I oppose this project; and I
6 would like to focus on my experience as a member of
7 the Douglas County board. I served for many years
8 on the Douglas County board where I was also a
9 member of the land committee. The Minnesota Power
10 request for the property for the Nemadji Trail
11 project came before the county land committee. And
12 that was several years ago.

13 As a member of that committee, I recall
14 the request for the land purchase; and I remember
15 the Minnesota Power representative describing the
16 project as a peak power plant that would supplement
17 their investment in wind and solar systems. The
18 energy would also be of use during the times when
19 the wind didn't blow and the sun didn't shine. He
20 indicated that there might be a few other days of
21 use when they could experience peak demands. He
22 also represented the view that this type of
23 gas-fired plant could come online very quickly
24 during times of duress or emergency situations.

25 His initial description did not suggest

1 that this project would operate 24 hours a day seven
2 days a week. When I see what this project has
3 become today, I feel that we were deceived. Also,
4 in view of my knowledge of how this power generating
5 plant has changed over time, I'm very concerned
6 about the source of the needed water. I do not
7 think that the estimated 2.5 million gallons of
8 water needed per day will be available as
9 groundwater. So, in no way would it ever be
10 acceptable to use Lake Superior water. I urge you
11 to reject the permit for the Nemadji Trail
12 generating plant.

13 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you.

14 MR. CONLEY: I'll hand that in.

15 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Sure.

16 (Witness excused.)

17 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Diana Brainard,
18 Jim Caesar, and looks like Darik Carlson.

1 DIANA BRAINARD, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MS. BRAINARD: Hello. I'm Diana
4 Brainard. I'm from Duluth, Minnesota. And I wanted
5 to talk about the plant from a Minnesotan's
6 perspective. Minnesota law has a preference for
7 meeting new energy needs with conservation or
8 renewable energy. It's never been demonstrated that
9 Minnesota needs this gas plant. Our demands can be
10 met without this expensive investment. And I wanted
11 to talk about the cost because the cost is a lot
12 more than just building the plant or the electrical
13 fees. We're facing an existential crisis because of
14 fossil fuel pollution.

15 And the storms have just begun. Our homes
16 are going to be flooded, our roofs are going to blow
17 off. Who knows if people will even be able to live
18 on Park Point. Because of global warming, we're
19 subject to new diseases from mosquitoes and ticks.
20 I don't want to accelerate that process. And then
21 when the plant is damaged by floods or erosion or
22 wind or whatever is going to happen to it, it's
23 going to be a huge stranded asset, the plant along
24 with its pipelines, that we have to clean up. We
25 have to pay for that.

556

1 So I am asking you not to build this
2 plant. I do understand that states are interested
3 in providing really good jobs, good paying jobs.
4 But we have to completely rebuild and reinforce our
5 infrastructure. We have to face a new reality. And
6 I would encourage the states to find those jobs in
7 those places. Thank you.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you,
9 ma'am.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Jim Caesar. And
12 then Darik Carlson and then Kym Young are all next.

1 JIM CAESAR, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. CAESAR: Good afternoon. I'm Jim
4 Caesar. I am the executive director of the
5 Development Association for Superior and Douglas
6 County. The Development Association is a leading
7 economic development organization in Douglas County.
8 This nonprofit organization represents over 130
9 business entities in the county when issues or
10 questions arise regarding economic development.
11 This organization champions growth, creation,
12 retention and recruitment for commerce in Douglas
13 County.

14 We'd like to take this opportunity to
15 express our support in allowing the Nemadji Trail
16 Energy Center to proceed and be built in Superior.
17 The project will serve our constituency by providing
18 reliable, affordable electric energy. The
19 partnership between Minnesota Power and Dairyland
20 Power Cooperative demonstrates their commitment to
21 their stakeholder by providing a reduced carbon,
22 higher efficiency electrical generation plant.
23 Additionally, the local economy benefits include
24 construction jobs and permanent full-time positions.
25 The \$700 million facility will provide additional

558

1 revenue to our county and the City of Superior.
2 This will help alleviate the tax burden on our
3 property owners. Finally, this proposal will be
4 less carbon intensive and emit no mercury at all and
5 will also provide grid stabilization for our region.

6 We urge the Public Service Commission of
7 Wisconsin to support Minnesota Power's request for
8 this project.

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you, sir.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Darik Carlson.

1 DARIK CARLSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. CARLSON: Good afternoon. My name
4 is Darik Carlson. I'm an electrician with the
5 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
6 Local 242. I'm speaking in favor of solar/wind
7 power, but I'm also speaking in favor of the NTEC
8 project. Much can be said about the benefits to the
9 workers in the community. I think that goes without
10 saying.

11 I also listened real carefully to all
12 those opposed to the project and what their
13 alternative was. And many of them opposed to the
14 project, you know, spoke of storage facilities for
15 the power when the wind isn't blowing and the sun
16 isn't shining. I tried to do a little research
17 today on how these energy storage facilities,
18 basically large batteries, are created. Lithium,
19 the main component, for these facilities are mined
20 and/or processed. Much of the mining is done in
21 China where safety and environmental standards are
22 almost nonexistent. Greenhouse gases.

23 Also, these large batteries have an
24 expiration date and need replacement. A used or
25 leaking battery may need to be treated as hazardous

560

1 waste.

2 So please continue to expand renewable
3 energy and build the NTEC to ensure power for
4 hospitals, nursing homes and our families. Thank
5 you.

6 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you.

7 (Witness excused.)

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Kym Young. Then we
9 have Virgil Sohm and Joshua Kostick.

1 KYM YOUNG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MS. YOUNG: Hello, I'm Kym Young. I
4 know we've talked about the health issues and the
5 environmental issues and the amount of water that's
6 going to be used. But there's one thing that we
7 have not talked about, and that's benzene, which is
8 a known carcinogen according to the American Cancer
9 Society.

10 In 2012, researchers from the Colorado
11 School of Public Health, their studies showed that
12 air pollution caused by fracking could contribute to
13 immediate and long-term health problems for people
14 living near fracking sites. Research by over 150
15 studies suggest that chemicals released during
16 natural gas extraction may harm human reproduction
17 and development.

18 And that's just one of the health issues,
19 environmental issues that I've been researching
20 since sitting here listening to everybody. And I
21 want -- I'm pretty sure everybody in this room
22 remembers when we had the benzene spill in Superior.
23 That impacted many people's lives here and the
24 health of many children and women and our elderly.

25 I'm concerned with the health issues. I'm

562

1 concerned with the environmental issues. I also
2 live one mile from the Husky Refinery. I happened
3 to be out of town the day of the explosion, but my
4 grandchildren who live with me were not. They were
5 here with their mother who had no transportation and
6 no way to get out of the ten-mile radius. It was
7 considered the danger zone at that time.

8 I've sat and listened to a banker today,
9 to county commissioners, to business people, who
10 have a vested interest in this project I am sure.
11 And it's profitable. It's very profitable. And
12 yes, we need jobs in our area because it's
13 depressed. But according to the research I've done,
14 these companies that are doing fracking, gas
15 fracking right now, are basically targeting
16 depressed, impoverished areas because we need jobs.
17 Jobs are all well and good. Renewable sources of
18 energy are all well and good. But if our water is
19 contaminated, that job ain't going to do you a bit
20 of good if you can't drink the water where you live
21 and where you work.

22 People from Dairyland are not going to
23 live in this area. People from Minnesota, they may
24 be affected. I know living in the City of Superior,
25 we will be affected if there is anything that ever

1 goes wrong at this plant. You cannot sit here and
2 tell me there's nothing that will go wrong. You
3 cannot sit here and tell me that where were you 25
4 years ago when they planned this. A lot of these
5 studies are recent, as recent as 2014 and 2016.

6 What happened in Cambridge, Pennsylvania,
7 was in 2012 when over 78 million gallons of
8 contaminated fracking water flooded in that
9 community. It cost billions of dollars to clean up.
10 As a taxpayer, we are already getting hit with
11 energy costs escalating because of Husky. Don't
12 forget Superior Water, Light and Power just recently
13 came at us, the citizens of this community, to
14 offset energy costs that Husky was not using during
15 the repair and refurbishment of the plant.

16 I'm concerned about that as well. But I'm
17 concerned about the generation that's coming behind
18 us. My granddaughter is sitting back there right
19 now. I want her to grow up with clean lungs, clean
20 air, clean water. And as much as we love the
21 outdoors here in Wisconsin, here in this northland,
22 fishing, hunting, summer activities, winter
23 activities, I'd like those to continue without
24 having to worry that kids are going to go outside
25 and get hurt because of some contaminated water,

1 contaminated land that we can't grow vegetables on.

2 So while we're making money, let's think
3 about that. Let's think about the future and think
4 about those that are going to be here that have to
5 deal with the aftereffects after a lot of us old
6 people are gone. Thank you.

7 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thank you very much.

8 (Witness excused.)

9 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Virgil Sohm.

1 VIRGIL SOHM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. SOHM: Boozhoo. Virgil Sohm,
4 indishnica's (phonetic) voice for Lake Vermillion,
5 resident Lake Superior Band of Ojibwa, treaty signed
6 at La Pointe in 1854. Came here to tell you that
7 the water in our big lake is very important to all
8 of us. Without water we would all die. We need
9 good healthy water; and the amount of water that is
10 listed as being needed to run this factory would not
11 come from the lake -- should not come from Lake
12 Superior.

13 And I heard testimony about groundwater
14 availability here in the Lake Superior area and from
15 the Town of Superior. I don't know what
16 infiltration measures are, but we cannot drink
17 contaminated water from a methane plant. And we
18 need to protect Lake Superior with all our lives.
19 Miigwech. Thank you.

20 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Great. Thank you, sir.

21 (Witness excused.)

22 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Joshua Kostick.
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1 JOSHUA KOSTICK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. KOSTICK: My name is Josh Kostick.
4 I'm born and raised in International Falls. I
5 graduated from the University Minnesota. I live in
6 Grand Rapids. I am an outdoorsman, I hunt, I fish,
7 I grew up in the woods my whole life and on the
8 water my whole life. I wanted to speak in favor of
9 this project, the Nemadji Trail project.

10 In my career, I've done construction
11 projects for both Minnesota Power and Dairyland
12 Power in my career. I cannot think of two better
13 environmentally focused, community engaged,
14 environmentally conscious companies like Minnesota
15 Power and Dairyland Power. The forward thinking
16 that they do, the being progressive with the
17 technologies that they've installed over the years,
18 I don't think it's something a lot of people realize
19 and acknowledge.

20 I fully support renewable energy. I fully
21 support solar, I fully support wind, I fully support
22 hydro. I think that is where we need to go as a not
23 only region, but as a country. But I also think we
24 all need to understand the impacts of all those as
25 well. And that technology is not where it needs to

1 be right now. And in order to get the power that is
2 needed in this region for the hopeful economic
3 development that we're all looking for for the
4 future of our kids who want to live and grow up in
5 this community, it's not there. And the amount of
6 land, the amount of resources, the amount of
7 production and fabrication and manufacturing that
8 will go in to create this solar, to create the
9 hydro, to create the wind power out there is still
10 going to take a lot of energy, pollution,
11 byproducts, everything. We're not getting around
12 that. No matter if you go to renewable or whether
13 you go with what's being proposed right now or what
14 we have in place.

15 Minnesota Power and Dairyland Power have
16 taken great strides to clean the environment, again,
17 installing air quality control systems far in
18 advance of what the government was regulating, far
19 in advance of many other utilities out there.

20 I have four daughters ages 16 down to six.
21 So, yeah, the environment means a lot to me. Again,
22 I live up here; but I also want to make sure that
23 they have a livelihood for themselves living up
24 here. And the grid and the need for power is
25 needed. We need to improve it. We need to do

1 better. And I do want to challenge anybody out
2 there who maybe doesn't understand the technology
3 behind this to do your research, do your research
4 into the technology, do your research into these
5 facilities and what it takes to run them. I've been
6 inside these facilities, I've walked around these
7 facilities, I've been inside the technologies that
8 they're implementing. The HRSG technology that
9 they're erecting, I've been across several of those
10 across the upper midwest. Do your research in the
11 technology and understand that this isn't as bad as
12 what some people may be portraying out there. Thank
13 you.

14 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Thanks.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Jim Paine. And then we
17 have Mary Munn is my last slip for "yes I want to
18 speak." So if you have more, get them in the back
19 of the room and I'll get them from them.
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1 JIM PAINE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. PAINE: Good afternoon. First of
4 all, I want to thank everybody that's come out to
5 speak and ask -- or raise a number of questions
6 about this project. You'll have to forgive me, I'm
7 not used to speaking from notes. I tend to just go
8 off the cuff, but we'll see what happens here. I
9 have a long history with this project. I first
10 learned about it in early 2016 after my election as
11 the vice chair of the Douglas County Board of
12 Supervisors.

13 And when I first learned about it, I
14 approached it with a great deal of skepticism, a
15 skepticism that I think was prudent and appropriate
16 not just for myself, but for all of the citizens of
17 both northwest Wisconsin and northern Minnesota.

18 This is a significant project. And it is
19 significant not just in the scope of our local
20 economy, but in the future of our environment. Not
21 just our environment, but the environment of the
22 United States, of North America and of the world.
23 We had to make prudent decisions not just for
24 ourselves, but to be responsible to a global
25 community.

1 And so I had a lot of very difficult
2 questions, and I believe that I raised those
3 questions both in public and in private with
4 Dairyland Power Cooperative and with Minnesota
5 Power. I think I asked those questions
6 aggressively. And when I took the office of Mayor
7 of Superior, I informed those companies that my
8 position in regards to the Nemadji Trail Energy
9 Center would not be to be an advocate for those
10 companies, regardless of what my position ended up
11 being, but to be an advocate for the people of
12 Superior. And so to that end, my largest ask of
13 those companies was to themselves, reach out to the
14 people of Superior, particularly the neighborhoods
15 surrounding this proposed plant, and allow us to ask
16 our questions and to raise our concerns directly
17 with the company and to give them a chance to answer
18 those concerns. And to then, as necessary, take
19 those concerns to this process.

20 Personally I have been very, very pleased
21 and satisfied with the response of the company to
22 those concerns. They have had several meetings in
23 public throughout this community open to any member
24 of the public that wanted to ask questions; they
25 have answered those questions directly, honestly and

1 personally. I've seen members, employees of the
2 company and representatives of this project give out
3 their personal cellphone numbers to members of the
4 public to answer the questions. I've seen them
5 visit the homes of people in the neighborhood. I've
6 seen them make alterations in the plans of this
7 project to accommodate the people of Superior.

8 And so in terms of the process that
9 they've pursued, I could not be more satisfied with
10 the way a company has proposed a partnership with
11 this community. But the fact is we still have to
12 answer the questions of value to the community and
13 to the environment. And, quite frankly, after all
14 the questions, I cannot find reasons to
15 significantly oppose this project. The reason is
16 the questions that have been raised, both here and
17 last night and at previous public hearings in both
18 Wisconsin and Minnesota, I believe all of those
19 questions have been satisfactorily answered. Of
20 course we want to build towards a renewable future.
21 We must part partner with companies that also want
22 to build towards a future of renewable resources.
23 And so when I look at companies like Minnesota Power
24 and Dairyland Power Cooperative and I see that they
25 are making substantial investment, outpacing any

1 renewable energy, outpacing even the most
2 progressive state in the country towards renewable
3 energy goals, I see companies that are committed
4 towards a green future for our communities.

5 When I look at the actual facts about what
6 level of support renewables can provide to the
7 existing grid and power demands in our communities,
8 I see that renewables simply cannot support them
9 right now and we must have the cleanest possible
10 alternatives, and those alternatives should be the
11 last resort to supporting the grid. And that's what
12 the Nemadji Trail Energy Center does.

13 In terms of its impact on the local
14 environments, I simply am not finding a risk. I
15 understand that the DNR still has questions
16 regarding the use of the water table. Those are
17 good questions to ask both from the community and
18 from a regulatory agency. I believe and I have
19 requested the companies proposing the project to
20 continue to answer those questions, do as many
21 studies as are necessary to satisfactorily answer
22 those questions. They have assured me of their
23 commitment to give full answers to the questions
24 regarding the Lake Superior aquifer and a
25 responsible use of surrounding water.

1 In terms of neighborhood and community
2 safety, I cannot find any significant impact towards
3 the safety of this community even in the
4 construction of the project. Not just from the
5 plans, but from the actions of the company in the
6 process of developing those plans. They've met
7 regularly with my public works department and my
8 office to make sure that the construction will be as
9 small an impact as possible; and they have always
10 prioritized public safety in the planning, bending
11 to our requests every single time we've made them.

12 And, finally, what might be the lowest
13 factor in developing the project and to most
14 community members, but is certainly a significant
15 factor for me, this project had the potential to
16 affect the quality of life of the people that live
17 near the plant. That matters to me. I have to
18 speak to those people when I campaign for office, I
19 have to speak to them when I represent them in
20 office. Their neighborhood must come first in the
21 development of this project. And the Nemadji Trail
22 Energy Center's representatives have put the
23 neighborhoods of Allouez and Itasca and the Nemadji
24 River first. They've met with them, they've
25 listened to their concerns and they've adapted the

1 project to those concerns, and I expect them to
2 continue to do so. Not based on their promises, but
3 based on their behavior thus far.

4 For those reasons and for countless more
5 that I don't have the time to articulate here at
6 this hearing, Commissioners, I strongly support on
7 behalf of my office and on behalf of the people of
8 Superior that you approve the permit for this
9 project.

10 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Mary Munn.

1 MARY MUNN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY AFFIRMED

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MS. MUNN: Good afternoon, everyone. I
4 will quickly read what I have and then make some
5 additional comments. I assume the natural gas
6 burned at this facility will be a byproduct of
7 refining activities at the Superior refinery.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Slow down a little.

9 MS. MUNN: Oh, sorry. Besides the poor
10 quality tar sand oil which cannot be justified for
11 refining by a full lifecycle analysis and the carbon
12 footprint of all fossil fuels including the Bakken
13 shale, my concern primarily involves potential
14 drawdown of the aquifer at unsustainable rates, 1.5
15 to 5 million gallons per day. I have a well out on
16 the ridge around Superior, and my well is 150 feet
17 deep, and I'm situated about 300 feet above the Lake
18 Superior level.

19 Anyway, MP&L, ALLETE, Superior Water,
20 Power and Light, are claiming they do not want or
21 cannot create additional demands on the existing
22 system that they own, which is kind of contrary. I
23 depend on this aquifer for my well, as well as
24 everyone that lives in the surrounding basin. And
25 until they can assure that it's not going to affect

576

1 the groundwater levels for all concerned, I think
2 that needs to be resolved.

3 Continuing investing in the fossil fuel
4 tract guaranties that we will continue down the
5 wrong path. I mean, we had a gentleman say that
6 this has been in the works for, like, 25 years. We
7 have our labor unions -- and I'm totally pro
8 labor -- that are concerned about their jobs. Well,
9 25 years ago, we already knew that climate change
10 was a problem, and there's jobs in every sector of
11 the renewable energy. So that is a false paradigm.
12 Sorry, I didn't mean to use a big word.

13 Anyway, you know, we long ago needed the
14 time to invest in the solutions of the shortfalls of
15 renewable energy. You, power company people, you
16 have the engineers and the expertise to resolve
17 these problems. This is a win/win thing. You know,
18 yeah, the mayor just said there's nothing wrong with
19 this, this is a go. I mean, generally natural gas
20 is a good thing. But when it's a byproduct of these
21 other activities, it really is not a good thing.

22 We should have started this change 25
23 years ago or longer. We can do it. And that's what
24 I want to see, I want to see us all use our
25 expertise and find a solution because climate change

1 is not an imaginary problem. Thank you.

2 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Okay. Thank you,
3 ma'am.

4 (Witness excused.)

5 EXAMINER NEWMARK: So we have Garner
6 Moffat, and that's our last slip. We are going to
7 take a break for about ten minutes after him and see
8 if anyone else wants to comment at that point.

1 GARNER MOFFAT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

2 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT

3 BY MR. MOFFAT: So I was listening to
4 everyone's comments. I just kind of jotted down my
5 ideas. But I wanted to come up and speak. I want
6 to request the Public Service Commission to stand in
7 opposition to the proposed energy facilities because
8 it's not in the public interest. Potential energy
9 produced is not needed currently and will not
10 benefit the people of Wisconsin. The facility has
11 outdated technology already, the proposed facility
12 creates significant environmental damage to regular
13 proposed usage, and the location of the proposed
14 facility also opposes significant environmental and
15 health threats due to climate change.

16 This area -- or the area surrounding it
17 regularly floods, flood levels are anticipated to
18 increase over coming years. The proposed facility
19 is not cost effective. Alternative energy of
20 renewable sources is already cheaper than the
21 proposed facility without the environmental and
22 health impacts.

23 Another comment received today says that
24 it's been in the works for 25 years. And I want to
25 know if that person would buy a 25-year-old

1 cellphone tomorrow. Would you buy a car built with
2 25-year-old features? Would it be smart to build a
3 company up from scratch now making horseshoes?
4 Another comment mentioned jobs. Any facility would
5 create jobs. Any facility. Solar facilities and
6 wind facilities could be cheaper, faster to build,
7 safer, still provide jobs. Solar energy provides
8 more jobs now than the coal industry in our country
9 already.

10 Another comment mentioned transitional
11 technology approach. But battery bank technology is
12 already used in large scale applications and other
13 locations making this facility already obsolete
14 before it's even built. Another comment mentioned
15 that this project supports renewable projects. But
16 why don't we build renewable projects to support
17 first. We don't have shortages now. Is it possible
18 that these companies are so brilliant that they
19 stand up for a natural gas facility when other
20 companies don't, or is it more likely that all the
21 other energy companies understand the costs involved
22 and have seen the writing on the wall?

23 Another comment mentioned power backup for
24 hospitals. They can't rely on offsite power and
25 have onsite backups already. Energy storage is

1 already available, and any critical facilities
2 already use it. There's no reason our city or other
3 communities can't as well.

4 As a millennial and a father of a young
5 child, I'm sick of retirement-age folks making
6 decisions that won't impact them for money and
7 leaving more problems for us to clean up.

8 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Thank you,
9 sir.

10 (Witness excused.)

11 EXAMINER NEWMARK: All right. Like I
12 said, a ten-minute break. We'll see if anyone else
13 wants to comment at that point. So we'll be in
14 recess until 20 to 4.

15 (Recess taken from 3:20 to 3:40 p.m.)

16 EXAMINER NEWMARK: Let's get back into the
17 public session; and I'll ask are there any more
18 comments, any more members of the public that wish
19 to speak? Okay. So seeing that there are none,
20 we'll move back into the party session. So I'll
21 give you a few minutes to gather up.

22 (Public session adjourned at 3:31 p.m.)
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1 STATE OF WISCONSIN)

2 MILWAUKEE COUNTY)

3
4 I, LYNN M. BAYER, RPR, CM, Registered
5 Professional Reporter, Certificate of Merit, with the firm
6 of Halma Reporting Group, Inc., 207 East Michigan Street,
7 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that I reported
8 the foregoing proceedings had on October 29, 2019, and
9 that the same is true and correct in accordance with my
10 original machine shorthand notes taken at said time and
11 place.

Lynn M Bayer

12
13
14 Lynn M. Bayer

15 Registered Professional Reporter

16 Certificate of Merit

17
18 Dated this 4th day of November, 2019.

19 Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
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25



I N D E X

WITNESS	EXAMINATION	PAGE
JANINE RUETER, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. RUETER	524
BRUCE THOMPSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. THOMPSON	527
JAN BLISS, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. BLISS	529
NORM HERRON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. HERRON	532
LINDA HERRON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. HERRON	534
KORII NORTHRUP, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. NORTHRUP	537
RICHARD VAN ROSSEM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. VAN ROSSEM	540
CHARLES GLAZMAN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. GLAZMAN	544
BLANE TOM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. TOM	546
MARK LIEBAERT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. LIEBAERT	548
GREGORY ST. ONGE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
	DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. ST. ONGE	552
DAVID CONLEY, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN		
		583

1 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. CONLEY 554

2 DIANA BRAINARD, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

3 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. BRAINARD 556

4 JIM CAESAR, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

5 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. CAESAR 558

6 DARIK CARLSON, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

7 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. CARLSON 560

8 KYM YOUNG, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

9 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. YOUNG 562

10 VIRGIL SOHM, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

11 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. SOHM 566

12 JOSHUA KOSTICK, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

13 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. KOSTICK 567

14 JIM PAINE, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

15 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. PAINE 570

16 MARY MUNN, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY AFFIRMED

17 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MS. MUNN 576

18 GARNER MOFFAT, PUBLIC WITNESS, DULY SWORN

19 DIRECT TESTIMONIAL STATEMENT BY MR. MOFFAT 579

20

21 *****

22

23 NUMBER DESCRIPTION PAGE MKD/RECV'D

24 (No exhibits marked/received.)

25

584